

Trails: The Beardsley Loop

Stanislaus National Forest

Mi-Wok Ranger District

ROG 16-51-06; 06/12

Railroads were an indispensable part of life in the Central Sierra Nevada, ferrying personnel, equipment and raw materials up and down the slopes. It has been some time since the railroads served as actual conveyances in the Stanislaus National Forest area. Yet the footprint of the railroads continues to be seen in the form of some excellent multi-use trails set up on what were formerly the railroad grades of the Sugar Pine and West Side railways. While these trails are normally sloped at approximately 3%, the occasional spot on a trail will exceed this average.

Safety

While negotiating these trails, please exercise due caution and care. These trails are not well maintained and the inattentive hiker or biker could suffer injury if less-than-full attention is paid to these pathways. If you are biking and not wearing a protective helmet, you are risking serious injury in the event of a fall. Please use caution and look for travelers coming from the opposite direction.

Protecting Railroad Resources

Do not remove railroad artifacts and remnants; leave them so that others may touch the past. Excavating, removing or otherwise damaging a heritage resource is a crime. Anyone caught doing so may be substantially fined and imprisoned. Help protect these fragile and irreplaceable reminders of the past for present and future generations. If you discover anyone digging, metal detecting, removing or damaging any heritage resource, please contact the Mi-Wok Ranger District at (209) 586-3234.



This trip along old railroad grades starts where the Lyons Reservoir to Fraser Flat trail leaves off—at the Fraser Flat Bridge (see map on reverse). The route



continues to Spring Gap, a distance of 2.6 miles, where a turn onto an old railroad grade (Forest Road 4N14) brings the rider, after almost a seven mile sojourn, to Forest Road 5N02, also known as Beardsley Dam Road. From there, the trail proceeds for a distance of 4 miles, to the lake itself, where the rider turns left onto Forest Road 4N88 for a length of some seven and a half miles, doubling back down Forest Road 4N01 to Spring Gap and finally back to the bridge at Fraser Flat. Total travel time for the trip of some twenty-eight and one-half miles is roughly three hours by mountain bike. Hikers should plan on an all-day hike exceeding 10 hours.

For more information on recreation in the Stanislaus National Forest, contact:

Supervisor's Office

19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-3671
TDD: (209) 533-0765
FAX: (209) 533-1890

Mi-Wok Ranger District

24695 Hwy 108
PO Box 100
Mi Wuk Village, CA 95346
(209) 586-3234
TDD: (209) 586-0262
FAX: (209) 586-0643








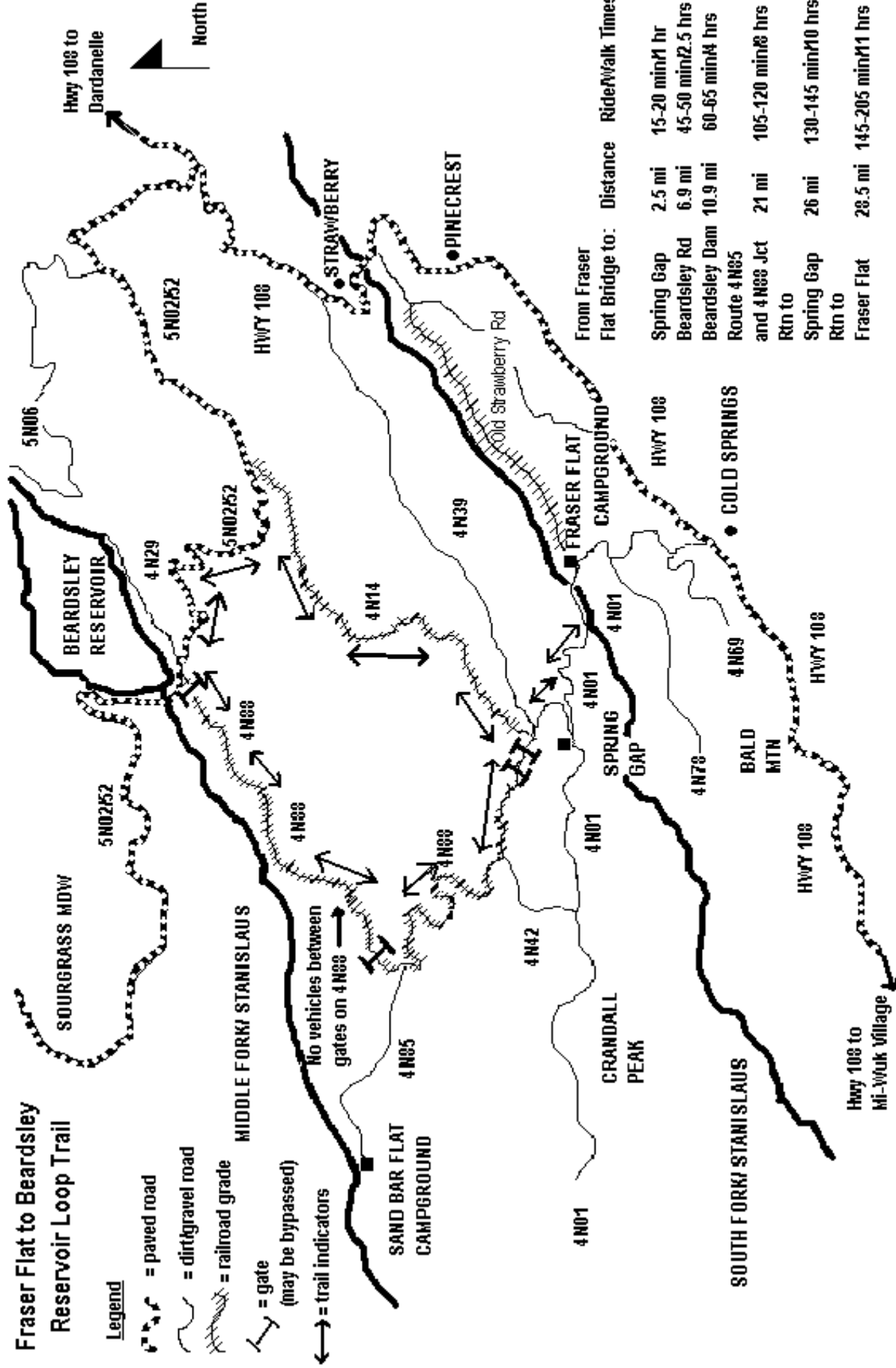
Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region

Stanislaus National Forest
www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus

Fraser Flat to Beardsley Reservoir Loop Trail

Legend

-  = paved road
-  = dirt/gravel road
-  = railroad grade
-  = gate (may be bypassed)
-  = trail indicators



From Fraser Flat Bridge to:	Distance	Ride/Walk Times
Spring Gap	2.5 mi	15-20 min/1 hr
Beardsley Rd	6.9 mi	45-50 min/2.5 hrs
Beardsley Dam	10.9 mi	60-65 min/4 hrs
Route 4N85 and 4N88 Jct Rtn to	21 mi	105-120 min/8 hrs
Spring Gap Rtn to	26 mi	130-145 min/10 hrs
Fraser Flat	28.5 mi	145-205 min/11 hrs

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